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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
regarding the situation in Nigeria**

The European Union is following very closely, and with anxiety, developments in the situation in Nigeria after the arrest on 21 December of General Diya and eleven other persons accused of attempting to carry out a coup d'état.

The European Union appeals urgently to the Nigerian authorities to treat the twelve persons arrested in accordance with legal principles corresponding to international standards. The prisoners should be entitled to legal proceedings which give them every guarantee that they can defend themselves and establish the truth in respect of the accusations made against them. The European Union cannot accept a repetition of the events of 1995.

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